

Subject: Coin photography

Du Puy, William Atherton
[Washington, DC]

1926

WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY
2819 28TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 1, 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th street & Braodway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

Since you were so good as to volunteer to make me some pictures of coins, etc., of your collection, on the occasion of my visit to you on Wednesday last, I am herewith sending you a list of subjects which seem to me desirable. The list is not very intelligently worked out since I am not altogether sure of the possibilities. But here it is.

- Incar. Athens*
- Syr Dec. in 1870s gold Tarentum Agorion Mende Eagle of Elis*
1. Group of early Greek coins, Lydian I believe they are.
 2. The typical coin of Croesus bearing the heads of a bull and a lion.
 3. The coins of the Greeks, as I understand it, reached their highest perfection about 400 years before Christ. Would you make a plate with half a dozen of these on it?
 4. I think I should have one group of coins of the Empire period of Rome.
 5. Then the Joachimsthaler. I am particularly anxious to get a picture of this coin.
 6. And I want pieces of eight. There was another Spanish coin, a piece of thirteen, about equal in value to the English ten shilling piece. I wonder if you have that?
 7. The first coin minted by the United States government was, as I understand it, a penny which was done in 1787. I would like to have that.
 8. The first series of coins was issued in 1792. Could I have those?
 9. Could I have a typical bit of continental congress currency, a typical state bank note, some shin plasters of the Civil War.

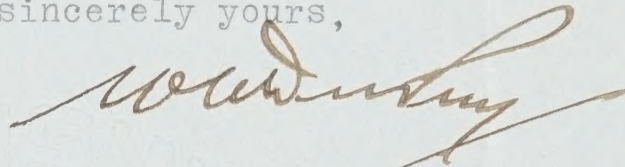
I write you this on personal stationery as I am not authorized to pledge the government to pay for these pictures. My hunch is that I will have to pay for them myself. I herewith agree to do so if I am unable to get the money otherwise.

WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY
2819 28TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

-2-

I will feel under great obligations to you in the circumstances. I think I should be able to perform an educational end which will make the effort quite worth while. Please accept my thanks.

Very sincerely yours,



PS. May I add another to the list?

10. I want eight medals of the presidents. I think they will photograph four on a plate. May I have Washington, Jackson Jefferson, Lincoln, Cleveland, Roosevelt, Wilson, Coolidge?

D

May 8th, 1926

William Atherton Du Puy, Esq.
2819 28th Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Du Puy:

I have neglected answering your letter of May 1st as I have been showered with work, and was unable to assemble the coins for photographing. Now I have gotten most of them together and hope to have them photographed about the middle of next week.

I can give you the coins in your groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; two or three styles of pieces of eight, 8 but I have never heard of a piece of thirteen, and have had no chance to look it up to see what piece this is.

Group 7 - the copper coin dated 1787 is a fugio or Franklin cent. These we have.

Group 8 - the real coinage started in 1793. One or two experimental or pattern coins were issued in 1792, but that was not the actual coinage, and I have none of them.

Group 10 - medals of Presidents. Do you desire the Mint medals, or any medals with a good portrait?. I have no medal of Coolidge whatsoever.

If you could let me know regarding the above by Wednesday next, I think it will give me sufficient time to arrange for the photographing.

Very truly yours,

Curator

WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY
2819 28TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 10, 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

I thank you very much for your letter
of May 8. I am fearful of causing you a
great deal of trouble.

I would suggest that you select
the piece of eight which will make the
best picture. The piece of thirteen is
credited with having originated the sus-
picion of bad luck which attaches to the
two-dollar bill. This is the cause of my
interest in it. If you are unable to find
one the loss will not be great.

The Franklin cent is undoubtedly the
one I should have. The coins of 1793 are
undoubtedly the group I should have.

It is the Mint medals of Presidents
that I want. Coolidge has been struck
but I suppose it has not come to you yet.

In one of your publications I saw
a picture of the transfer machines that
are used in making medals. It was your
catalogue of medals issued in 1910, I
think. Would it be possible to get
a copy of that picture? If so I would
be additionally obliged.

And, that I may be able to meet any
emergency of publication, may I ask that
you have your photographer print two
copies of each picture?

The present indications are that
my book is to be used as a supplementary
reader in schools. It is assuming an
additional importance as I go along.
And I am ~~af~~ under increasing obligations to you.

Very sincerely yours,

William A. D. Puy

*5 sent photo
of "Bismarck" monograph
5/21/26 22¢ postage
Rush*

*5 sent 10 prints
2 not in
15/20*

May 21st, 1926

William Atherton Du Puy, Esq.
2819 28th Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Du Puy:

Under separate cover, I am sending you the photographs I took. With each photograph is a notation as to what the coin is.

If you wish to have anything else photographed, please let me know.

The medals, when photographing, I have reduced in order to get them all on one plate, as, with these, size is not an important factor. But if you wish to have them the same size, I shall be glad to have them photographed again for you.

You will note that I did not have photographed the Coolidge medal, ^{as} I am sure that you can secure this from the National Museum.

I am including with the photographs our pamphlet which shows that medal-making machine. I do not know where the original photograph is. This publication was issued long before I came here. Possibly we could dig up the half-tone if you want it.

Very truly yours,

Curator

WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY
2819 28TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 24, 1936.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you very much for for the pictures
and for all the trouble you took. They are
excellent.

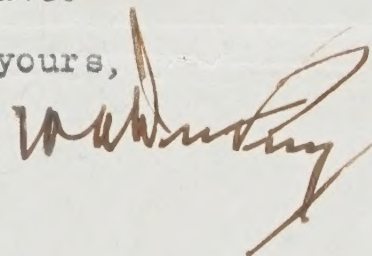
I am enclosing herewith a check
for the amount of the bill you sent. Will
you be so good as to send the receipted bill
back that I may try to get the money out of
my publisher.

I am sending some of the pictures back
and asking that you look over the captions
that I have written. I was not sure in each
case that I got the right caption on the right
picture. Will you please clarify one or two
other points as indicated.

Did you see my article on money in
Saturday Evening Post of the last issue?
Not much on the phase of it in which you are
interested. I am doing one for the National
Geographic that will be much more historical.

Again I thank you for helping me out.
Call on me when I may reciprocate.

Sincerely yours,



May 26th, 1926

William Atherton DuPuy, Esq.
2819 28th Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Du Puy:

I am returning, herewith, your photographs. I have made a number of slight changes; and, in two or three instances, have given you more or less of a story concerning them, so that you can make out your own captions.

Enclosed, is the receipted bill.

As I seldom see the Saturday Evening Post I did not read your article. But I shall look forward to reading that which is to appear in the National Geographic as I subscribe to that publication.

If I can be of any further assistance to you, let me know.

Very truly yours,

Encs.

Curator